

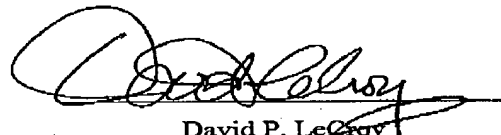
REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-23 are rejected. Claim 11 was amended in Applicants 30 January 2004 Reply, canceling the term 'suitable' from line 2 of the claim. Claims 1, 5, 7-11, 16-18, 22 and 23 have been 'amended' to change the status identifier from 'Previously amended' to 'Previously presented'. No new matter is introduced with this amendment.

It is believe that this amendment satisfies the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. Allowance of the claims is believed to be in order, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Dated: 20 February 2004

NATIONAL STARCH AND CHEMICAL
COMPANY
Post Office Box 6500
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807-0500
Phone 908.683.5433
Fax 908.707.3706


David P. LeCroy
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 37,869